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SUBJECT Admiral Turner on Secrecy

DOUG FEISEL: There are a number of journalists who would gasp at the suggestion that the lot of the reporter these days is not unlike that of the CIA agent. After all, the spy's purpose in life is to do his work away from public scrutiny, to conceal rather than to reveal. The reporter's job is quite the opposite, supposedly. But on the other hand, not all of the reporter's work can be done in the open. Sometimes in order to reveal in the end it is necessary to conceal in the beginning. And there are those who believe that the reporter has no more right to keep his sources and methods to himself when a court of law demands them than the spy does when he is put into a similar situation.

Whether that comparison is just or right is open to debate. But recently the nation's top spy offered his views on the subject to a group of journalists. Barbara Porter was there.

BARBARA PORTER: CIA Director Stansfield Turner acknowledges that disclosure is a touchy issue in the intelligence community. Speaking to reporters at a recent National Press Club luncheon, he defended the right of the CIA to keep its operations secret. He also pointed an amiable, but somewhat accusing finger at the press.

DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER: I have fallen into a daily habit of starting my day by reading your press clips. I do so almost holding my breath, however, waiting to see what new disclosure is going to uncover one or another of our intelligence sources. Sometimes it's a simple leak; sometimes it's one of our officers who had to testify in a court. Sometimes it's a subpoena for one of our documents or some of our notes.

PORTER: But Turner adds that the tables have turned a little bit and that actual parallels have developed between the need

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